Damage to Bridges on National Highways

1243. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some major bridges on differents National Highways were damaged recently due to heavy rains and floods;

(b) if so, the State-wise number of such damaged bridges;

(c) the date since when those bridges have been damaged;

(d) the efforts made by the Central Government to repair and restore those bridges;

(e) whether any such bridges has been damaged in Orissa; and

(f) if so, the steps taken for reconstruction of those bridges at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c) One major bridge on National Highway No. 12 in Madhya Pradesh over river Newaj is reported to have been damaged between 20.8.96 and 22.8.96.

(d) One FDR estimate amounting to Rs. 39.42 lakhs has been sanctioned for repair and restoration of nawaj bridge.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) As per (d) above.

Marine Transport Around Mumbai

1244. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to start marine transport in and around Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) The Central Government or the State Government of Maharashtra are not considering to start marine transport in and around Mumbai. However, the State Government of Maharashtra is taking steps for promotion of passenger water transport service in and around Mumbai with the objective of providing alternative means of transport and reducing congestion on the road and rail infrastructure. The State Government has issued No Objection Certificates for playing hovercraft/catamaran/fast ferry service from Gateway of India in South Mumbai to New Mumbai on the eastern sector and Nariman Point in South Mumbai to Borivali in North Mumbai on the western sector.

Block Headquarter with Telephone Facilities in Bihar

1245. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government for linking block Headquarters with telephone facility.

(b) the number of block Headquarters which have not been provided with telephone facility so far, in Bihar, district-wise; and

(c) by when the above headquarters are likely to be provided telephone facility?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) There is no separate policy of Government to link block Headquarters with telephone facility. The policy is to cover all the villages.

(b) 70 Block Headquarters are not having telephone facility. The district-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below).

(c) By the Year 1997-98, the above